

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please kindly rewrite Claim 4 and 7 as follows, and cancel claim 8 in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121:

1-3. (cancelled)

4. (currently amended) A method for producing an amino acid comprising

a) cultivating in a culture medium A ~~an~~ isolated *Escherichia coli* bacterium which has been constructed from a sucrose non-assimilative *Escherichia coli* strain, wherein the bacterium harbors csc genes originating from *Escherichia coli* selected from the group consisting of strain EC3132 and strain W3350csc, and comprising genes coding for a permease, invertase and fructokinase, and said bacterium having an ability to cause accumulation of an amino acid in a medium when the bacterium is cultured in the medium in an amount higher than is produced from a bacterium not harboring said csc genes, and

b) collecting said amino acid from said medium.

5-6. (cancelled)

7. (currently amended) The bacterium-method according to claim 4, wherein the said amino acid is selected from the group consisting of threonine, homoserine, isoleucine, lysine, valine, and tryptophan.

8-12. (cancelled)